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Sallie Wright to Mr. Meredith (1 October 1962)

Sallie Wright

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Answered 11/21/62 ✓

October 1, 1962

Dear Mr. Meredith,

I am but one of many millions of people who share my feelings. From the bottom of my heart, I apologise for the behavior demonstrated by the students of the University of Mississippi. I can assure you that they are acting without cause, that they are but children blindly following leaders who can be nothing but "trouble-makers."

I have lived all my life in a small, Southern town that has its prejudiced people. However, these prejudiced here, as well as everywhere, are greatly in the

minority. If they are intelligent people, their minds will grow into adulthood, but until then, they can be expected to act only as unknowing children.

I have attended Richmond Professional Institute, Richmond, Va., where there are enrolled several Negro students. All of these students, without exception, are a source of great pride to their school. They have been treated only as what they are: persons equal to all others under the eyes of God.

I feel that you will have understanding in judging these Mississippi students who have proven, by

their actions thus far, to be far inferior to you. As a mob they can only feel their strength and superiority; as individuals they cannot help but feel their weakness and inferiority.

I cannot find words more beautiful or more true, than the words spoken by Jesus when he was forced to say, "Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do."

Very sincerely,
Dallie Wright
1688 Fairfax Ave.
Petersburg, Va.